

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
5TH COUNCIL, 32ND SESSION

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL
NO. 7-32

TABLED ON JANUARY 25, 1966



23rd November, 1965.

Confidential - Not for
release before tabling
during the 32nd Session
of Council.

NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL NO. 7
(First Session, 1966)

SHOOTING OF BEAVER AND
INCREASING BEAVER QUOTA

DISPOSITION

Accepted as Read.....
Amended.....See Text
Rejected.....See Text
Deferred.....See Text
Not Considered.

SHOOTING OF BEAVER AND
INCREASING BEAVER QUOTA

At the 30th session of Council, the member for Mackenzie Delta asked "that the request of the Trappers' Council that the shooting of beaver be permitted in the spring and that the quota be increased". (Request by Mr. Trimble, Page 288.) Council directed that the requests be implemented by the Commissioner.

This request covers two items, the shooting of beaver and changing the beaver quota. The first item was taken care of at the June, 1965 session of Council when the abolition of the Mackenzie Delta Beaver Sanctuary was approved. This was the only area where the restrictions on the shooting of beaver applied.

At present, the beaver quota is one beaver for each occupied lodge. This quota applies throughout the Territories, regardless of regional variances in beaver population density. In certain areas where beavers are numerous, a quota of two or even three beaver for each occupied lodge would be in the best interests of all. In other areas where beaver are less numerous the quota should be reduced, and if necessary, the season closed temporarily to permit population increase. In other areas such as the Mackenzie Delta where in many instances beaver occupy dens and cannot be found, a quota system based on a lodge count can be totally unrealistic. These examples are mentioned to demonstrate the disadvantages of an inflexible quota applied to a vast area where many variable conditions exist.

The Canadian Wildlife Service supports the idea of abolishing the present quota system and of establishing quotas on a regional basis. The Service believes that more efficient harvesting of beaver should result.

The Commissioner therefore recommends that the present beaver quota system, as provided for in Schedule A, Item 10 of the Game Ordinance, be discontinued and that beaver quotas be established on a regional basis by regulation of the Commissioner. If Council accepts this recommendation, legislation to amend Schedule A, Section 10, will be introduced.